



AUSTRALIA

AUSTRALIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

E-mail UN.Geneva@dfat.gov.au

Chemin des Fins 2, Petit Saconnex, 1211 Geneva 19 Ph +41 22 799 9100 Fax +41 22 799 9175 www.geneva.mission.gov.au

Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 25th Session

Universal Periodic Review of Samoa

Statement by Australia

Australia welcomes the delegation from Samoa and appreciates Samoa's constructive engagement in the Universal Periodic Review process. We acknowledge and congratulate Samoa on its UPR participation, which requires considerable effort given its limited resources.

Australia welcomes Samoa's commitment to fulfilling its human rights obligations, including under the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. We commend Samoa for signing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). **Australia recommends Samoa ratify the CRPD to ensure the rights of people with disabilities are safeguarded.**

Australia welcomes the establishment of a National Human Rights Institution in Samoa. **Australia recommends Samoa pursue the recommendations outlined in the 2015 State of Human Rights Report, particularly those relating to women, children, people with disabilities and prisoners.**

Australia commends Samoa's implementation of its 2013 legislation at the March 2016 election to ensure that 10 per cent of the members of the national parliament are women. We acknowledge the efforts that Samoa is making to address violence against women and girls, including by passing the *Family Safety Act 2013*.

Australia is pleased to be supporting Samoa's efforts to promote increased gender equality and inclusion of people with disability through our development assistance program with Samoa.